

SPEECH

OF THE

HONORABLE R. P. ROBLIN

PREMIER OF THE PROVINCE
OF MANITOBA

DELIVERED ON MARCH 31st
1903.

AT VICTORIA HALL.

CARMAN, MAN.

WINNIPEG.

PRINTED BY THE TELEGRAM PRINTING CO., LIMITED

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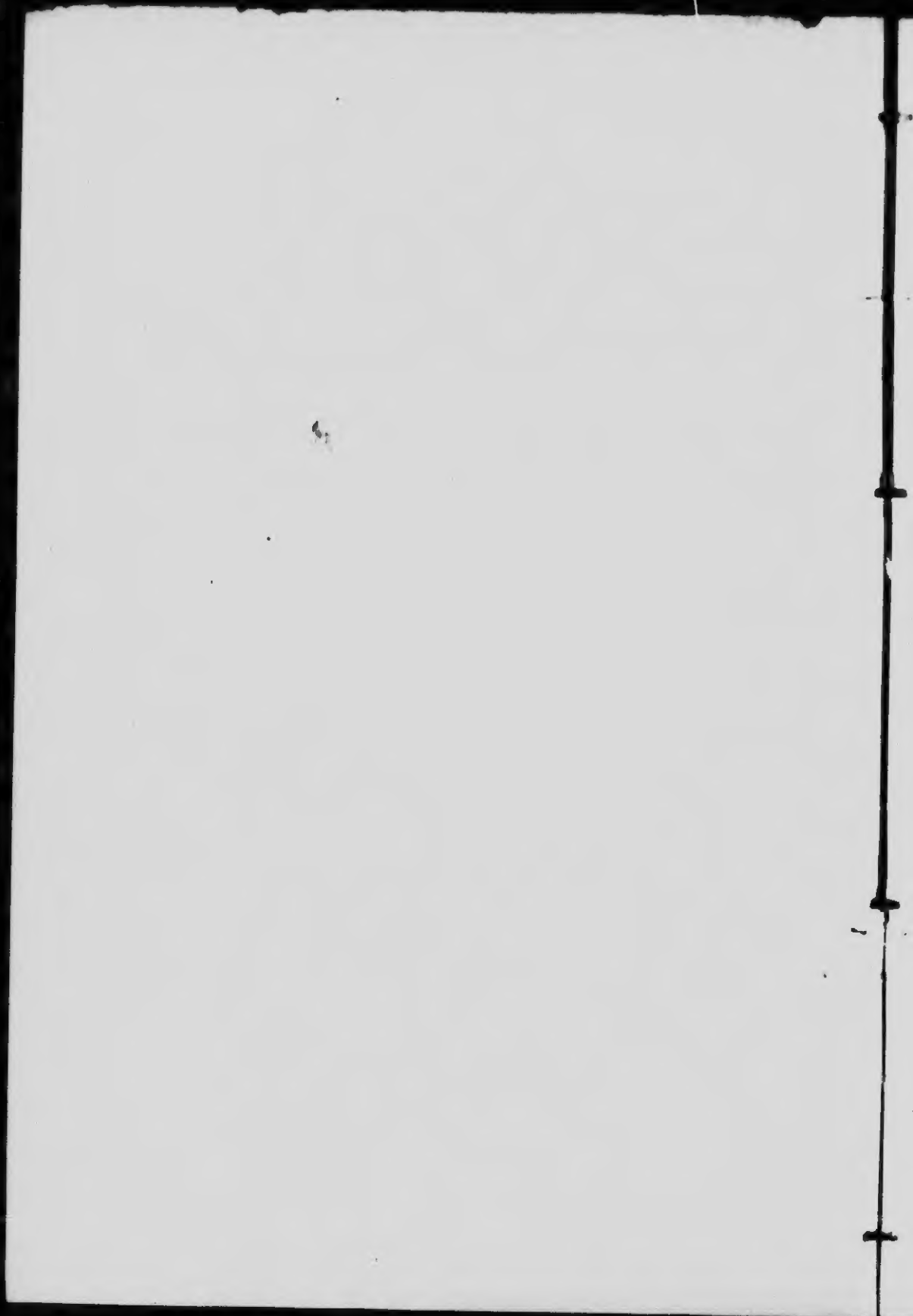
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S P E E C H
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HON. R. P. ROBLIN.

VICTORIA HALL,

CARMAN, March 31st, 1903.

Mr. Chairman:— I thank you for the exceedingly kind welcome and reception that you have given me on this my first appearance as candidate for your suffrages at the approaching election. I am not surprised in any way at the evidences of friendship that you have manifested towards me so abundantly. I am no stranger to the people who constitute the electors of the Constituency of Lufferin, at least, not to any of those who were here in the early days, say in the '80's. It is true that many have come in since that time that I have not been able to keep in close touch with as I would like to have done, but circumstances over which I have had no control made it impossible. I have, however, retained the same interest, financially and otherwise, in the Town of Carman and in the surrounding country that I had in the years I speak of, and in coming back to you, accepting at your hands the nomination of the Conservative party which you were good enough to tender me to-day—I am speaking now more particularly to my Conservative friends—I feel that I could not receive a nomination from any source, from any class of citizens, from any electoral district in the Province, that carries with it greater significance than does that nomination which you to-day tendered to me. (Applause.) I thank you for it, the Liberal-Conservatives who were at that convention, and the people behind them whom they represent, for the honor they have done me. (Applause.)

LADIES' INFLUENCE.

I am pleased to be present to-night to address the people of Carman for a great many reasons, some of which I will give you before I sit down. I am pleased to see so many present, and can only regret that the hall is not larger so that so many will not have to stand while I address them, because I would like you all to be comfortable while I address you to-night for a reasonable length of time on the public issues of the day. I am pleased, again, to see so many ladies present. I am glad to know that the ladies take sufficient interest in the public questions of the Province, that under the very unfavorable weather conditions which exist this evening, so great a number have turned out to sit for a considerable length of time while we discuss questions that are of very great interest to us. As candidate for this district, I solicit the influence of the ladies. I was present at a meeting the other day when a good friend of mine was nominated in the afternoon, as I was to-day, and in soliciting the influence of the ladies, he said something which struck me as being remarkably apropos, which was that every married lady certainly controlled one vote, while an unmarried lady, if she was adroit, clever, and a manipulator, could control three or four. (Laughter.) I appeal to the ladies to-night for their influence, provided they believe, and I want this proviso inserted, provided they believe that they, the government of the day, have conducted the public affairs of this Province, honestly, faithfully and well. (Applause.) If they do not so believe, then I would not ask for their influence, but I want them to listen to what we have to say, to enquire for themselves and to examine into our record, and then intelligently and honestly decide for themselves, and then I am satisfied what their action will be. (Applause.)

PUBLIC DISCUSSION.

Now, it is right and proper that under the system of government which we have, that any government which has lived out its time, which has held its four sessions of the Legislature that are supposed to be held under ordinary circumstan-

ces in the term of parliament, should through its leader, appear at some appointed place, none more fitting than this, and review and account, so to speak, for the actions of the government. That is right. It is proper. It is constitutional, and not only is it right and proper for the representatives of the government to appear and disclose and discuss with you all the facts and circumstances of its public policy and public administration, but you as electors have a right under our system of government to demand that the leader of the government make such accounting, the he does appear before you and discuss and disclose all questions of fact regarding the administration of public affairs and answer if necessary any question which any elector may choose to ask, provided of course that the elector does not ask it for the purpose of being impertinent or offensive. (Hear, hear.) Now I am here for that purpose to-night and I am pleased that the opportunity is afforded, pleased in the first place because I recognize that it is in discharge of a public duty, and pleased again because I have that confidence in the administration, and in our record of the administration, that it gives me pleasure to submit it for your review and for your verdict inasmuch as I feel absolutely confident that it will commend itself to you. (Applause.) I think, and I believe that you will agree with me that the standard by which the government should be tested as we ask you to test our administration, can be found along three different lines. Has it been honest? Has the government that has had the control of the administration for the past four years been honest? Has it been efficient? Has it been patriotic? In asking the question has the government been honest, you have a right to enquire whether it has kept its pledges and promises which its supporters made to the people when an appeal was made to the people for their support at the polls, and I am here to-night to say that we have, so far as was possible, having regard to the time at our disposal and the circumstances. (Cheers.) Has it been efficient? I think, sir, we can say safely that it has, because in that interrogation you carry the idea of whether ordinary, plain business methods have obtained, whether the administration has been conducted along the lines you would expect to find in a well equipped, well managed

business concern, and I think I will be able to show you before I have done, that the very best of business methods have been adopted within the last three years. Has it been patriotic? Has it worked in the best interests of the country? Have we undertaken to develop the country? Have we fostered the interests of the people? Have we done such things as enable the people of this Province to feel that we have enabled them to be more prosperous, that have been of material and substantial benefit to them? These are questions which I shall undertake to answer by submitting our various measures to you as I discuss the questions of our public policy. (Applause.)

CONTRASTS RECORDS.

Another reason why I am pleased to be here to-night is because I am aware that you had on this platform only a few days ago the leader of the opposition, the Hon. Thomas Greenway, who graced a gathering here with his presence. Mr. Greenway, the leader of the Liberal party in this Province, who from this very platform undertook to outline and indicate to you the reasons why you should withdraw your confidence from the present government and restore him to power. In presenting his views, he was doing what was his duty as a public man and as leader of the party which he represents, and whether he did that duty faithfully, whether he did it in such a way as the facts warrant, I will leave you to decide after I have enquired into what he said, after I have examined his public utterances, and after I have dealt with them from public documents which I have with me. And not only did Mr. Greenway speak from this platform in order to convince the electors of Dufferin that the Roblin Government should not be supported or endorsed, but the Liberal party, through its executive, at a meeting recently held in Winnipeg, issued a platform to the electors of this country asking the electors to support them upon what that platform contained. I shall deal with that also. And again Mr. Greenway was honored as I am pleased to know, in his own constituency in the Town of Baldur a few days ago, and at the banquet given there he made a speech, a speech of con-

siderable importance in view of the fact that it was delivered in his own constituency, and I shall refer to some of the statements he made in that speech, and then again, there comes his address, formal and regular to the electors of Mountain, and in which he repeats the reasons why you should vote against the present government and for supporters of the Liberal party. Now, I do not want to be understood for a moment as claiming support because Mr. Greenway and those associated with him, when in office, did something that I do not endorse, do not agree with, something that you do not endorse and do not agree with, because I want to be tried, I have a right to demand to be tried, and I would be unfair and cowardly if I were not willing to be tried, upon my own record, upon what we have done, and to ask for support from that standpoint, and not because of the weaknesses and mistakes of our opponents. (Cheers.) But it is proper and right that in submitting to-night what I propose to submit in the way of reasons for the endorsation of the present government, to do it by way of contrast with the record of our friends of the Liberal party, and in doing that I shall say nothing except so far as the public records support me. (Applause.) I shall say nothing that is conjecture, nothing that is surmise and nothing in the way of insinuation. I am going to submit the plain unvarnished facts, the records as they exist, and on that I am going to leave it for you to decide. (Applause.)

Without further preliminary I am going to take first what Mr. Greenway has said in the way of criticism of the government. It is necessary that I should meet that, because if some of the things which Mr. Greenway is reported to have said, are true, then the government would be deserving of censure and would be unworthy of support if I understand the principles of government correctly. And therefore it is necessary for me to deal with those matters.

REFUTES MR. GREENWAY.

Now, the first thing that Mr. Greenway said in his Baldur speech, and I will have to refer to it in detail, for it was to me somewhat remarkable that it should have come from him,

Printing

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was in connection with the public printing. He made the statement, as reported in the Free Press of March 27th, he made this statement referring to the Winnipeg Telegram: "What are the facts regarding this newspaper that is sent out for the purpose of doing all that it possibly can in the way of misrepresenting the Liberals and Liberalism! It was paid last year by this government—the Telegram newspaper—the sum of \$23,641. Twenty-three thousand six hundred and forty dollars of the people's money, of your money—went to run that lying sheet, the Telegram newspaper. The cost of printing in 1898 was \$17,000. In round figures in 1902, theirs cost \$37,000—more than double what it cost under our administration." Now that is a statement that is sent broadcast over the country. It is either a fair and an accurate statement, or it is unfair and inaccurate. I am not going to use the strong language which my hon. friend did. It is not necessary for my purposes. I do not have to stoop to that sort of thing. You will notice that my friend, Mr. Greenway, takes the year 1898 of his government, that he takes the last year of my government, 1902. I propose when he takes our last year, 1902, to take his last year, 1899, and now what are the facts in connection with that statement? The facts are these, that in the last year of the Greenway Government, their printing cost them \$31,111.37, not as he says here \$17,000, but almost twice as much, and I have here the public accounts and I can give you here the pages and the headings under which the items appear, making up those figures.

GREENWAY'S COMPARISONS.

I do not come here to make statements such as my hon. friend made, unwarranted by the facts, but I have the public documents which are available to every elector who wants to see them. I ask you what you think of the leader of a great party who would make a statement of that kind? His printing for that year cost \$31,111.37. Our printing for our last year cost us \$36,971.30, say for the purposes of the argument, \$37,000. He picked out the year in which their printing bill was the smallest, and compared it with our largest

year, not desiring to be fair and take the last year of our respective governments. But the question is not so much whether our printing cost us more this year in a lump sum as against any other year, but the question you have to decide upon and we have to answer is: Did we pay more for the same class of work than the Greenway Government did? If we did, then we stand convicted of having spent the public money extravagantly. Now let us see what the record is. Mr. Greenway printed the Consolidated Statutes in 1891, as you will remember that they are consolidated every ten years, and we printed them in 1901. What did we pay per page? We paid \$4.85 a page and Mr. Greenway paid \$7.36½ for the same identical work, and yet Mr. Greenway has the temerity to stand up at a meeting, it is true, surrounded by his own friends where he was perfectly safe to do it, and make a statement of the character that he did. Look at the difference; \$4.85 a page is what we paid, as against \$7.36 that they paid. (Applause.) That is the difference in connection with the printing of the Statutes. But I want to deal with this matter fully, for I don't want to leave it hurriedly, for my words are being taken down as I speak to-night, and I will be held accountable for every statement I make, and I am glad of it. If my opponents will not put words into my mouth that I never use, I will be delighted. It is the misrepresentation of the whole opposition press that I have to complain of and of that alone. If they would tell the truth that is all I ask of them but it is impossible for them to do it. (Laughter.)

SAVES NEARLY SEVENTY PER CENT.

The public printing in 1899 under the Greenway administration cost the Government at the rate of \$2.12 per page, and under the Roblin Government in 1902 it cost only \$1.42½, a saving of 69½ cents per page all round. Why in the matter of binding alone, the cost under the Greenway administration was 9¼ mills per section of sixteen pages and under my government only 7½ mills, an aggregate saving of \$193.50, while the aggregate saving in cost of printing was \$3,287.35 under our contract. That is the difference in con-

nection with that particular matter of printing, and now let me show you the saving in respect to other matters. I hold in my hand a copy of what is called the "orders of the day," what you would call the programme of the proceedings. Under the Greenway administration the cost of printing each page of these orders of the day was \$3.45 and we got it done under contract with The Telegram Printing and Publishing Company, for 60 cents a page, \$3.45 as against 60 cents. The votes and proceedings, that is the minutes of the day's business printed after the house is through for the day and signed by the Speaker as a record for the members, cost under the Greenway administration \$2.98, almost \$3 a page, while we paid out only \$1.19 for it, and yet Mr. Greenway has the temerity to try to delude you into thinking that we are paying more for the printing than he did. We will take the public accounts. I hold a copy of them in my hand. The Greenway Government paid \$3.13½ a page for printing them. We paid \$1.20¾, less than half.

PRACTICES STRICT ECONOMY.

These are the evidences I submit to you of the business ability and economy of the Government. (Applause.) This is the evidence that we submit to you and to the country that we have wisely and economically handled the public printing of the country and have by our contract saved to the people hundreds and thousands of dollars of your money. If we had paid at the same rate as the Greenway Government was paying for the same work, it would have cost us over \$55,000, as nearly as we can compute it. It is true there is an excess in expenditure for last year of some five or six thousands of dollars over what the Greenway Government had to pay in their last year's administration, but that is accounted for by the fact that we have done very much more business and have had to do more printing. Outside of that altogether, we have organized three different land titles offices, one of which is located here at Carman, and additional business has been created by virtue of the prosperity which has been abroad in the land, necessitating additional offices. There

were four land titles offices under the Greenway Government. There are seven to-day, but Mr. Greenway desires you to infer that because the public business of the country has necessitated an increase in the expenditure for printing that there was extravagance, and that The Telegram Company got the benefit of it. Any man who steps into the Land Titles office can see for himself what extra printing was necessitated in order to organize one office alone; and again, by the lamented death in 1901 of our beloved Queen Victoria, we had to have new printed forms containing all the formal portions in the various documents required in the Lieutenant-Governor's offices, involving additional and unexpected expenditure, so that the additional five or six thousand dollars, taking into account the increased business, is easily explained. (Applause.)

Now, I need not say anything more about the question of public printing. Our contract runs for two or three years more, and the public have the advantage of the terms of that contract, as I have indicated, and I think Mr. Greenway will do well in the future to avoid any reference to the printing of the Roblin administration as compared with his own. (Applause.)

DEFICITS VERSUS SURPLUSES.

Another thing that Mr. Greenway has referred to is the finances of the Province. In his address to the Mountain electors under date of March 27th, he says: "The present Government has been beyond question the most extravagant in the history of the Province." This is a nice, plausible statement, isn't it? He says: "The prime duty of the Government of Manitoba is, therefore, to administer the affairs of the Province with the utmost economy, in order that the requirements of the public service may be properly met without having recourse to undue taxation, to the raising of revenue by the exhaustion of our resources, or by additions to the Provincial debt." That is what he says ought to characterize the Government; and that is what I say has characterized the present Government. (Applause.) That is the kind of administration that we have given the country.

Bonded Debt.

We have not loaded the Province down with bonded indebtedness. It is only in the record of the Greenway Government that you will find the cause of the bonded indebtedness, and therefore the statement of extravagance which he makes by direct charge is one that the facts will not warrant, as I will show you before I have done. (Applause.) To go back to when Mr. Greenway took office in 1888, the Province of Manitoba had not then one single dollar of bonded indebtedness upon it for ordinary purposes, not one cent of bonded indebtedness had been incurred for what are known as ordinary expenditures. What in contrast was the condition when Mr. Greenway went out of office in January, 1900? He had mortgaged the Province for two and a half millions, and the interest upon that mortgage you are paying to-day at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. The interest upon the mortgage that Mr. Greenway put upon this Province amounts to over \$130,000 a year, and he now dares to say that it is the duty of the Government to so control the finances that there shall be no more bonded indebtedness! In other words, that the ordinary revenues of the Province shall be equal to the ordinary expenditures. Let me here for a moment enquire what pledge and promise the Liberal-Conservative party of this Province gave to the electors in 1892, when we asked them for their support. We stated that the condition of the finances of the Province was alarming, and that if you put us into power we would restore the equilibrium between the revenue and the expenditure. Have we done that? I am here to-night to tell you, and tell you with a great deal of pride, that we have done it, that we have redeemed our promise. The era of deficits is passed. (Applause.) The time has come when we will have surpluses instead of deficits (applause), and there is no longer any necessity for rushing year after year to the money markets of the world and asking the assistance of financial people in order to obtain loans to carry on the ordinary business of the country. (Applause.)

PAYING GREENWAY'S DEBTS.

When we took office in January, 1900, what did we find? The financial statement is here in my hand. Did we find

Greenway
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that the Government had been running as Mr. Greenway now, in his address to the electors of Mountain, says it should be run? No, sir. We found the Province of Manitoba, when we took office, without a single dollar to her credit. We found more than that, as is shown by the statement which I hold in my hand, and which is official, that the Government owed the Imperial Bank. They had used every dollar available, and then they had gone on their knees to the Imperial Bank and obtained an overdraft of \$76,036.77. They had also used, misappropriated, trust moneys to the extent of \$15,485.75, and there were unpaid accounts of the Public Works Department for public institutions, charities, Agriculture and Immigration, and from other departments of the public service, to the amount of nearly \$160,000, as follows:

Public Works	\$23,674.76
Attorney-General's Department ..	7,530.00
Education	64,476.69
Agriculture and Immigration ...	14,938.08
Executive Council	15,955.16
Treasury	7,000.00
Drainage Districts	18,537.79
Provincial Lands	4,058.95
Internal Economy	439.69

making, in the aggregate, the immense sum of \$248,136.40, for which we had immediately to provide. We were that much worse off than nothing when we took office, and yet Mr. Greenway has the temerity to ask you to again put him back in office. To do what? To do the same thing over again. Are you willing to do that? I don't think so, when you take into consideration that the Roblin Government had to the credit of the Province on Dec. 31, 1902, the close of the financial year, no less than \$318,000 of your money that we had saved for you. (Applause.) Do they dispute this? I am reading from a public document, a document which they say gave them a certificate of character. (Laughter.) For myself, I don't want any such certificate of character as that, because I know as well as you do that when an individual, a municipality, or a government, or a corporation of

any kind goes on year after year expending more money than it receives, it will as surely go into bankruptcy and insolvency as that the sun will shine. Time is the only element required to bring them into financial difficulties. Every year since we have been in office we have been able to set aside a nice little sum of money, so that in the four years of our administration we have saved the amount I have just given you. (Applause.) They were, as I have told you, \$248,000 short when we took office. Go back over their record right down from the day that they took office, and you will find, with just one single exception, that there never was a year that they did not spend more than their revenue and come out with a deficit of from one to two hundred thousand dollars, so that at the end of their term they had spent over \$900,000 of money more than their receipts for ordinary expenses, and they mortgaged the Province in order to get that money and keep going, and you are paying the interest now. These are the facts from the records, facts which no one can dispute. No one can dispute them, and if you think it is desirable to restore to power the men who have gone on in that way and intend, if they get back, to go on in that way, why, vote for their candidates. They say they will do the same thing over again. All they want is for you to give them the opportunity, and if you give them the opportunity, they will make you suffer for it. He dares to talk to us about handling the finances badly!

GREENWAY GOVERNMENT AND TRUST MONEYS.

I am going now to deal with another matter and show you that the business methods of the Greenway Government—I am not going to charge them with dishonesty—but I am going to show you the weakness of their business methods, if you care to have it put that way. I am going now to deal with the drainage question, which you farmers about here know of, and I say that since I last spoke here many matters have come out which possibly you do not know about. I want the farmers here who are within this drainage district to bear this in mind and consider how far their trustees, the

Drainage

men who were charge^d with the handling of their money, have been faithful to their trust and honest, and if you think they have been that, after I submit to you their record, vote for Mr. Greenway and his candidates, because I want to assure you all and have no misunderstanding about it, that there will be no business of that kind while I am in office. (Cheers.) This drainage district was created some four or five years ago, and Charles Whitehead, a genial, pleasant man about whom I don't intend to say one disparaging word, was given the contract. He is a contractor, and it is his business to look out for himself and make the most he can, but it is the duty of the Government to protect your interests and the public interests, and if the Government did not do that, you cannot quarrel with Mr. Whitehead for doing the best he could for himself. Mr. Whitehead had that contract when the present Government took office. He was in charge of the works when the Greenway Government were in office. How did they handle that business? When we took office on Jan. 4, 1900, the books of the Department were closed for the financial year ending Dec. 31, 1899. How did Mr. Whitehead stand as shown by those books? The Greenway Government had advanced to Mr. Whitehead on his dredges, on August 8, 1898, the sum of twenty thousand dollars.

SOME WHITEHEAD PAYMENTS.

They had paid Mr. Whitehead on account of work done \$9,405, and not paid this once only, but twice.. How did they do that? That second payment is another example of the negligent way in which the Greenway Government looked after your interests. They sent one engineer down, and he measured up the work that was done, and on his certificate Mr. Whitehead was paid \$9,405; and after that amount was paid, they sent down another engineer, who knew nothing about the former measurement and payment, and he certified to the work again, and on his certificate the Government paid over another \$9,405, so that Mr. Whitehead was paid twice for the same work. In May, 1899, they loaned Mr. Whitehead the sum of \$10,000 on the security of wood cut along

the drain, and they took a mortgage on the wood, stipulating that the first work that was done when the wood was being used should be allowed to go in reduction of the indebtedness. This was early in the summer, and when we came into office in January, we found that Mr. Whitehead still had his money, that not a dollar had been paid back, and all that we had was a mortgage on the smoke and ashes. (Laughter and applause.) But the Free Press, the delectable, truthful organ, the Free Press, undertook to say that I had made the statement at Emerson that the Greenway Government had taken a mortgage on smoke and ashes, and they said they had a reporter who would swear to it. (Laughter and applause.) Yes, prepared to swear to anything, and that is the way they attempt to justify the charge. I never made any such statement. The mortgage was given in May, and the wood was burned during the summer, but what I said, and I now say, is that, when we came into office, Mr. Whitehead had the money and we had nothing but the mortgage on the smoke and ashes. They paid also to David Alexander and others accounts amounting to \$524.10, making a total of over forty thousand dollars, and you farmers, whose lands were in that district, were mortgaged to that extent, and for what? The money had been paid over, and you had no redress. You had to stand for it. You were taxed through the Treasury office to make good that \$40,000 and interest, and Charles Whitehead had it in his pockets walking around, and you had no benefit from it. Not a dollar's worth of work had been done for it. Is there a Liberal here so far sunk in dishonesty as to stand up and say that that is the kind of men that you want to run this Province? If there is, I say that he is unworthy to be numbered amongst the electors of the proud district of Dufferin. (Cheers.) When we came into office, we found that they had over-measured the work to the extent of 49,286 cubic yards, and had paid for that with cash belonging to the people, and that without color of right, without the slightest authority for the expenditure.

THE WATSON OVERDRAFT.

That was not all. On June 16th, 1899, the Hon. Robert Watson, who was then Minister of Public Works, wrote a

letter to the manager of the Imperial Bank at Winnipeg, guaranteeing a further advance to Mr. Whitehead of an additional \$10,000. That letter is on record. It is as follows:—

Winnipeg, June 16, 1899.

C. S. Hoare, Esq.,

Manager Imperial Bank of Canada, Winnipeg.

Dear Sir,—Will you be good enough to allow Mr. Charles Whitehead a further overdraft of ten thousand dollars, payment of which is hereby guaranteed by this Department. This sum is in addition to the amounts of \$5,000 and \$15,000, respectively, already guaranteed by this Department, making a total of \$30,000.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT WATSON,
Minister of Public Works.

MORE WATSON DOINGS.

And that was not all. Under the terms of the contract entered into between Mr. Whitehead and the Government, there was the usual clause inserted in agreements between the Government and contractors, and between private parties, that the sum of ten per cent. of the estimated work done should be retained by the Government until the completion of the work, as security. Now, Mr. Whitehead had due to him as this percentage the sum of \$11,254.74; and after the Greenway Government had been defeated, after you at the polls had declared unmistakably that you no longer had confidence in their administration, what did they do? They made a most systematic and determined attempt to take that eleven thousand dollars out of the public treasury and give it over to Mr. Charles Whitehead. I will read the evidence, and I will make the statement right here that the Free Press newspaper will not publish what I am going to read, either at this time or at any time hereafter. (Laughter.) They

dare not do it. (Renewed laughter.) Just you buy the Free Press with a report of this speech, and see if they dare. Here is what was done. On Nov. 18, 1899, the following order was issued:—

Winnipeg, Nov. 18, 1899.

I, Robert Watson, Minister of Public Works for the Province of Manitoba, do hereby, under the powers contained in a certain agreement entered into between me and Charles Whitehead, of the City of Brandon, contractor, bearing date the 22d day of August, A.D. 1898, for the drainage of what is known as or called "The Boyne Marsh or Swamp," and, in consideration of the fact that the said works have, in my opinion, sufficiently progressed to ensure their completion, and that security is held by the Government to the extent of \$27,000 upon three dredges upon the works, in addition to the security bonds of the said Whitehead, release the ten per cent. retained from the said Whitehead under the said contract upon all progress estimates heretofore given upon the said works to the said Whitehead, and do hereby, as I am authorized and empowered to do under the terms of the said contract as aforesaid, sanction and authorize the payment of all moneys in the hands of the Government representing percentages retained under the contract aforesaid to the said Whitehead.

ROBERT WATSON,
Minister of Public Works.

On Dec. 19 an Order-in-Council was passed for payment of this amount, the number of that Order being 1950.

This was after they had been defeated, after they knew that they had to go out of office, after the people had told them that they did not approve of their conduct of the business of the Province. Now, you see that if Mr. Whitehead had been able to get this money after the Greenway Government had been turned out of office, he would have had fifty-six thousand dollars of your money in his breeches' pockets and could have walked around town snapping his fingers at you, for the country never had one cent's worth of money for

that. But, thanks to the Provincial Auditor, the man who stands between the people and a Government that does not know its business with regard to handling the public money honestly and with authority, Mr. Watson was checked, and his minute-of-council was thrown back, and the Auditor refused to sanction the vote.

GUARDING THE TREASURY.

Here is what the Auditor said under date of Dec. 20, 1899:—

"Under these circumstances I cannot feel justified in passing this voucher, and beg herewith to return it."

Mr. Black refused, as I have shown, to pass this voucher, showing you that the Greenway Government was attempting to deal with this public money in a way that was illegal and contrary to law. They had no more right to touch that money than if I were to go down in this audience and take yours. But do you think they were satisfied with that one refusal? No. They were determined that Whitehead should get that money, and on Dec. 23 Mr. Watson wrote another letter—this time a very long one, which I will not read—to George Black, Provincial Auditor, reviewing the story of the contract and urging that the voucher be passed for payment, but Mr. Black would not acquiesce in the knavery, and replied under date of Dec. 27, setting forth his reasons for refusal again, and concluding:—

"In view of all the circumstances, and after very carefully considering the matter, I do not think it advisable that I should pass this voucher, and I regret that I cannot comply with the request contained in your letter.

"GEORGE BLACK,

"Provincial Auditor."

WANT TO DO IT SOME MORE.

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, these are the facts. There is the record, and that is the kind of government and the system of government which Mr. Greenway came here the

other night to ask you to endorse, to ask you to restore to this Province, because they have not promised, and will not promise if they are again put in power, that they will not do the same things again. They have never said they are sorry. They have never admitted that their actions were improper and illegal. They glory in it. Why, at the Baldur banquet, A. C. Fraser, a leading light in the Liberal party, voiced their sentiments, which were re-echoed and applauded by Mr. Norris, another luminary, that the standard by which the Liberals desire to be judged was by their record in the past. In other words, they wanted to be put in office in order to repeat the record they made from 1888 to January, 1900. If you want a government that will do that sort of thing, you have only to vote for Mr. Greenway and his supporters; but if, on the other hand, you want a government that will not stoop to such dishonesty, vote for the representatives of the Conservative Government now in power. (Cheers.) I leave that question with you, and you can decide it for yourselves upon the record. I am not through with that drainage matter yet, though.

CHANGING CONTRACT.

Let me tell you that, after we took office, we found that the Whitehead contract had been changed from a sixteen-foot berm required on the ditch to an eight-foot berm. Now, you know what the difference is between a sixteen-foot and an eight-foot berm. It means that the eight-foot berm costs so much less. They undertook to change that contract after they had been defeated and when the people had told them that they were no longer fit to be entrusted with the conduct of public affairs. There were two letters we found in the Department under date of Nov. 15 and Oct. 10, written by Charles Whitehead, and we found something very peculiar about those letters.

You know that every letter, when it comes into the Department, is numbered, and when we came to get these letters, we found that they were numbered 1485½, the only two letters in the whole Department that bore half numbers, that is to say, they had been slipped in between two previous letters

which were numbered consecutively, and were marked with the half number for the purpose of making it appear that they were received at the time they were dated. But it was shown conclusively that those letters came in after the Greenway Government had been defeated, in the latter part of December. They were then dated back about six weeks, in order to provide a possible justification for the action of the Government in changing their contract. In order to have the changes made in the contract, a legal gentleman, Mr. E. M. Wood, was called in, and he, in his evidence before the financial commission, said this:—

“Q.—At what time was that handed to you, do you remember?”

“A.—It was the latter part of December, 1899, or the forepart of January, 1900.

“Q.—That is, the particulars of these changes were handed to you at that time, either the latter part of December, 1899, or the forepart of January, 1900?”

“A.—Yes.

“Q.—And they were handed to you with a view to your making the changes, or drawing out the agreement as to those changes, were they?”

“A.—Yes.”

You see the methods that obtained in the conduct of public business by the Greenway Government even after they knew they had to go out of office. They would have put that additional money into Mr. Whitehead's pocket and would have changed the contract from a sixteen-foot berm to an eight-foot berm.

“A CERTIFICATE OF CHARACTER.”

Are you prepared, after having listened to Mr. Greenway upon this platform, to vote for a man or endorse a man who would sanction or endorse conduct of that kind? If you are, don't vote for me. If you do, you will be deceived, for I pledge you my word that I shall never while I am in office either do anything of that kind or permit it to be done by anyone connected with my Government. (Great cheers.) And that is the record of the commission, the record that

Thomas Greenway is pleased to call a certificate of character! That is what surprises me. What could contain any more condemnation than that report, unless it was the sentence "Five years with hard labor." (Great laughter.) That is a portion of the record of the Greenway Government.

WHAT IS OUR RECORD?

What is our record? There has not been a single breath of scandal in connection with anything that we have done while in office. (Applause.) There has never been a suggestion of scandal, save when Mr. Charles Young, of Deloraine, in his place in the House one day said that someone had received a letter from someone whose name he dared not give, charging that some contract had not been let by the Government to the lowest tenderer. When that statement was made, I immediately rose in my place in the House, and, as Premier of this Province, I invited Mr. Young to make his charge in such form that it could be investigated, and I offered, if he would do that, to appoint a commission to investigate it, let him name his own commissioner from the judges of the King's Bench Court of this Province and name his own counsel to conduct the enquiry, and we would pay the whole expense. (Applause.) But Mr. Young didn't make any charge, and cannot do so, because there is no possibility of his being able to prove it, for nothing of the kind suggested has ever happened. It does not exist.

PRESENT EXPENDITURE.

Mr. Greenway says that we have expended one to two hundred thousand dollars a year more than he did. That is true. But he condemns us for it, which is another matter. Is there a man here in this hall to-night who came here five or six or ten years ago that was satisfied with his first or his second or his third year's work, if he had got ten or twenty or thirty acres of land broken and was using it, or did he not want to progress and do more? No; there is not a man amongst you who does not desire year by year to increase his business and make it more profitable. The same ambition,

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, pervades and controls the Government of this Province, of which I am proud to be the leader. We are not disposed to sit down and say that this fair Province has reached the zenith of its prosperity, that it cannot provide for more people, that it cannot be further developed, and that our prosperity cannot be increased; but, on the other hand, we have been diligently devising ways and means to develop our grand resources and advance our people to heights of greatness that we have not reached. But remember this, we have not spent money that we have not received, and we have not mortgaged the people's patrimony in order to obtain this additional money we require. How did we get it, then? We got it by the adoption of new methods of raising revenue, new methods of taxation.

TAXING CORPORATIONS.

We went to work and developed a scheme of taxation of the railways and banks and insurance companies and great corporations that are doing business in this Province, with the result that we have been able to increase enormously the revenues of the Province. (Cheers.) We have in this way increased our general revenue account by a hundred and fifty thousand to two hundred thousand dollars. Have we done right? Did we do right in asking the C. P. R. and the banks and the other corporations doing business here to pay a fair share of the cost of the civil government of this country, a fair share of the cost of administration? If you think we have done wrong, if you think that we should instead have put the tax upon the farmers, then, I say, do your duty, no matter how unpleasant it may be, and vote against me. (Cheers and laughter.) But if you think that a corporation like the C. P. R., whose common stock is selling at from 125 to 140 and is able to pay a five per cent. dividend upon all its liabilities, should be relieved from its responsibilities with respect to the government of the country, then I can tell you I don't agree with you. (Cheers.) The tax on the corporations is an equitable, fair tax, and we propose to continue it, and continue it in order that you may get the benefit, for by

increasing the revenue in this way we have been able to increase the grants which the Government makes for public services of various kinds.

INCREASED PUBLIC GRANTS.

We have paid for educational purposes alone since we have been in power \$150,000 more than the Greenway Government was able to pay in their last three years of office, an average of \$50,000 a year more than they paid. And they tell us that, because we have taken this money by taxation from the railway and other corporations, we have done an improper thing, and if you will restore them to power they will alter it. If you want the old system restored, put them back. (Laughter.) Now, let me tell you something more about their method of government.

ANOTHER GREENWAY RECORD.

I hold in my hand a supply bill with the name of the Hon. D. H. McMillan, Provincial Treasurer, on the back of it. That was their last supply bill in 1899. They estimated that what they would expend would be \$924,372.84—about \$900,000—and they said that their receipts would be \$1,070,127.06. What do the public accounts show? That is the year they were going to the country, and they wanted to make it appear that their finances were in splendid condition, that they were financing along safe lines. The public accounts show that they expended or created an indebtedness for that year of \$248,000 more than their estimates. Their own documents give their estimates a flat contradiction. We have, on the other hand, made no such statement as that. Everything we have said along the lines of estimating our receipts and expenditures has been verified by events as they have developed, and we claim that we have been honest, because we have kept our pledges and our promises to the people, and we have been efficient, because we have made our revenues meet our expenditures, with something to spare. (Cheers.)

THE M. & N. W. LANDS.

Another item that Mr. Greenway has dealt with in his speeches and address is the M. & N. W. lands question. He says in his address: "I charge the Government with a persistent misapplication of trust funds, particularly in the case of the moneys derived from the sale of M. & N. W. Railway lands," and he goes on to say that we have violated the principle upon which trust moneys should be handled. We have done nothing of the kind. Our authority for what we have done is contained in the Statutes of 1900, chapter 23, which, expressly dealing with these lands, says (clause 3): "The proceeds realized from the disposition of such lands shall from time to time be placed to the credit and form part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Province." There is the Act of Parliament, passed June 1, 1900, that makes express provision that the moneys realized from the sale of these lands shall go into consolidated revenue, but the point that I want to make particularly in connection with these lands about which so much has been said is this: They claim that the sales of the lands have very considerably increased our revenue, and I want to show you the record and what the facts are. The agreement which secured to the Province these 500,000 acres of land was made in the spring or early in the summer of 1899. The agreement came down to the House at the very tail end of the session, when three sittings a day were being held and time was not allowed for an intelligent discussion upon it. Mr. Greenway then made this statement, on July 19, 1899, that the amount of indebtedness of the M. & N. W. Railway Company to the Province was \$1,221,000, and I make this charge, which Mr. Greenway dare not deny, that at the very time he made that statement to Parliament—and bear in mind that we had no other source of information then—that he knew it was a statement which the record of the Treasury Department did not and could not justify, and that he deceived Parliament and deceived the public to the extent of \$40,000. I hold in my hand a certified statement that was given to Mr. Greenway by the Treasury Department and that was sworn to before the Public Accounts Committee, showing that the indebtedness was

\$1,266,914.73 and not \$1,221,000, as he stated, and that the statement bears date of May 9, 1899. And more. Parliament was led to believe—we did, in fact, believe—that, when we made that arrangement, we got an absolute title to the land, instead of which we had to pay an additional ten cents an acre on every acre of it to the Dominion Government, and Mr. Greenway sat in the House and voted the \$54,000 necessary to pay it, or, in other words, Mr. Greenway, by the way he handled that business, lost to the Province the sum of one hundred thousand dollars that the people should have, instead of which we have to put our hands into our pockets to pay it, and after that he has the hardihood to tell you that we have handled these lands improperly! If Mr. Greenway or any one of his satellites can show that we ever gave any railway company an advantage of ten cents in a deal of that kind, I will hand in my resignation to-morrow. (Cheers and applause.) He tells you that we have misused our trust, that we have prejudiced his friends the members of the M. & N. W. Railway Company, that he thought so kindly of as to deceive Parliament for them and to give them back 160,000 acres of your land and \$45,000. Why, we had it in our hands—we had the security right. We had a mortgage on the land, but Mr. Greenway gave back that 160,000 acres, and he deceived Parliament and he deceived me in making that statement; and when Mr. Greenway undertakes to charge the Government of which I am leader with misuse of the trust funds, he makes a statement which has no foundation in fact and which is not consistent with the official statement which I have in my hands and with the Act of Parliament. (Applause.)

RECEIPTS FROM M. & N. W. LANDS.

I have in my hand a statement dated March 27, 1903, certified correct by the chief clerk in the Department, showing what the total receipts and expenditures in respect of the M. & N. W. lands have been, and it shows that, instead of those lands having been a source of revenue since the Government took them over under the Greenway agreement, up to the present time we have actually paid out more in respect

of them than we have received, to the extent of \$110,506.64, and after that he dares talk about improper handling of the trust funds!

Here is the statement:—

Statement of amount owing to the Government by the M. & N.-W. Railway Company at date of settlement, May 9, 1899, with interest and survey fees paid to Dec. 31, 1902, compounded semi-annually at 5 per cent.

Face value of Provincial debentures, series A	\$787,426.67	
Interest, survey fees, etc., paid to May 9, 1899, with compound interest thereon at 5 per cent.	479,488.06	
	<hr/>	\$1,266,914.73
1899.		
May 9—To interest paid on debentures, with compound interest to date.	463,466.62	
Balance of land grant selection account, with simple interest to date...	8,776.67	
Three per cent. gross earnings and rent of box cars, due to the Government, with interest thereon	7,244.77	
	<hr/>	\$ 479,488.06
June 28—Fifty days' interest to date at 5 per cent.	3,284.18	
Interest paid this date	19,840.55	
	<hr/>	\$ 502,612.79
Dec. 28—Six months' interest on same at 5 per cent.	12,565.30	
Six months' interest paid this date....	19,863.14	
	<hr/>	\$ 535,041.23

1900.

June 8—Survey fees paid, 10c per acre....	239.10
June 28—Six months' interest.....	18,382.01
Six months' interest paid this date....	19,784.10

\$ 568,446.53

Oct. 19—Survey fees paid, 10c per acre...	21,397.59
Seventy days' interest to date.....	205.17
Dec. 28—Six months' interest on \$568,446.53	14,211.16
Six months' interest paid this date....	19,781.50

\$ 624,021.95

1901.

June 28—Six months' interest to date.....	15,600.54
Six months' interest paid this date.....	19,784.10

\$ 659,406.59

Dec. 28—Six months' interest to date.....	16,485.16
Six months' interest paid this date....	19,784.10

\$ 695,675.85

1902.

Jan. 29—Survey fees paid.....	\$16.00
Feb. 24—Survey fees paid.....	16.00
June 28—Int. on \$32.00 to this date.	.70

32.70

Six months interest on \$695,675.85....	17,391.90
Six months' interest paid on this date..	19,857.48

\$ 732,957.93

Aug. 22—Survey fees paid.....	\$64.00
Oct. 1—Survey fees paid.....	16.00
Dec. 12—Survey fees paid.....	32.00
Interest on \$112.00.....	1.27

113.27

Dec. 28—Six months' interest on \$732,957.93	18,323.95
Six months' interest due this date....	19,784.10

\$ 771,179.25

SUMMARY.

Total amount at May 9, 1899..	\$ 479,488.06
Debenture coupons paid from May 9, 1899, to Dec. 31, 1902	\$158,459.07
Survey fees paid from May 9, 1889, to Dec. 31, 1902....	21,781.48
Compound interest on above moneys from May 9, 1899, to Dec. 31, 1902.....	111,450.64
	<hr/> 201,691.19
	<hr/> \$ 771,179.25

Receipts from sales, etc., of Manitoba & North-Western
Railway lands from May 9, 1899, to Dec. 31, 1902.

1899	\$ 3,796.80
1900	7,334.15
1901	41,319.11
1902	128,734.49
	<hr/> \$ 181,184.55
Amount expended more than has been received since May 9, 1899	\$ 110,506.64

Certified correct,

W. J. PTOLEMY,
Chief Clerk.

March 27, 1903.

Balance of survey fees yet to be paid..... \$ 32,474.52

UNREPENTANT SINNERS.

Mr. Greenway, as I have said, gave that railway company \$100,000 that he had no right to give them, no color of right, and he deceived me and he deceived other members of Parliament, and they want to get back into power again. What for? To give the C.P.R. company another \$150,000, to be

able to deceive your representatives in parliament again? Did you ever hear Mr. Greenway say he was sorry for this? No; they are only itching for another opportunity to make a deal, and that is why they are abroad in the land, but the bone and the sinew of this country, the people who have to pay the taxes are not anxious for the restoration of a government with a record like that. (Cheers.)

GREENWAY AND TRUST FUNDS.

Now he says that we have dealt with trust funds improperly. Well, unfortunately for him but fortunately for the people of this Province, we are in charge, and the books which they kept when they were in power are now open to us, and we are willing to give to the people all the available information, particularly when charges of this kind are made. I have here in my hand an Order-in-Council dealing with trust funds, an Order-in-Council passed by the Greenway Government in December, 1897, when, without the first color of right, law or anything else, they took the sum of \$101,207.43 of trust funds, transferred it from the debenture account to the consolidated revenue or current account in order that they might get their hands on that money and spend it. The M. & N.-W. Railway Company owed us \$400,000 for interest. Anything that they paid on the interest account would go into the consolidated revenue, and could be checked out from time to time for ordinary expenditure. This particular money I am speaking of now was paid into capital account, and for this reason. Under the contract with the M. & N.-W. Railway Company we had an acre of land for every dollar debenture issued to them, but when they paid the dollar back, they had one acre of land released or transferred to them, so that we had to give up the security we held for the payment of those debentures at maturity, but the Greenway Government by this secret Order-in-Council of the 8th of December—I hope the Free Press will publish this, but I know they won't—took this \$101,000, which was capital, and transferred it to consolidated revenue, to be used for ordinary purposes. A more flagrant breach of the principles which govern the handling

of trust funds never was made, and never could be made, and yet these gentlemen ask you to vote for their candidates in order to return them to power again so that they can by another Order-in-Council, passed without authority, transfer more money from capital account as they have done once. It is true it was contrary to law, but they don't care about the law any more than they did about the interests of you farmers when they were handling the Boyne marsh matter.

LAND TITLES OFFICES AND NORMAL SCHOOLS.

Another thing that Mr. Greenway complains about. He says that we have used assurance fund moneys to build land titles offices without authority. Sir, we have a statute behind us. (Applause.) It is a fair matter of criticism for Mr. Greenway to say, for example, that we should not have placed a land titles offices for instance, at Carman. It is all right for Mr. Greenway to say that he would not have done so had he been in power, but he cannot say that we did not have authority to do so, for I have here in my hand the Real Property Act of 1902, which expressly authorizes us in Section 155 to use these moneys "for the erection of buildings to be used as land titles offices." Another thing on trust funds. Mr. Greenway says that we have improperly and unwisely and irregularly used the school moneys of this Province since we have been in office for the erection of Normal schools. Why, sir, we have built these Normal schools under an Act which Mr. Greenway himself passed while he was in office, the School Act of 1890, which gives us full powers in that behalf. We are taking forty or fifty or seventy-five thousand dollars out of the school funds which we receive from Ottawa, for the purpose of erecting an Agricultural College for this Province. They condemn this and ask you to vote us out and them into power because we are doing wrong.

THE CHICAGO TAVERN.

Is it a proper thing to have an Agricultural College and to have Normal schools? Why, do you remember that in 1893 Mr. Greenway took \$87,000 of your money out of the

public treasury and went to the City of Chicago and built a tavern there, and a mighty poor tavern it was (laughter) and he lost every dollar of that money. Every dollar that he put in it he lost, and yet he says it is wrong for us to use money for Normal schools and an Agricultural college! Let us see some of the things that he bought in connection with that Chicago tavern. There were elk and moose heads, painted models, fish refrigerator, show cases and mirrors, I suppose to adjust their hats in (laughter), stuffed animals, velvet coverings too, if you please, and a dog train and a pony, all amounting to \$7,337.77, which was all they had left out of this great expenditure of money, out of this \$87,000, and even that they did not keep, for they brought the things back to Winnipeg and stored them without any insurance on them in the old Mulvey Street school, and when the school was burned down they lost them all. (Laughter.) That is their record. That is what that distinguished statesman, A. C. Fraser, of Brandon, wants you to judge them by. Do you want them to be going down to St. Louis again next year, away down in Missouri, and build another tavern? (Cries of "No, no" and laughter.)

Mr. Roblin—Well, that is what they want to do. That is Mr. Fraser's own statement and Mr. Norris' own statement, to judge them upon their past record, and they were enthusiastic upon the possibility of getting back into power, and doing the same old things over again. (Laughter.)

FREE SCHOOL BOOKS.

It is a wonder too when they are condemning our expenditure for an Agricultural college and for Normal schools throughout the Province, that they do not also condemn the Roblin Government for undertaking to supply free school books to the children in the public schools. (Cheers.) Perhaps they haven't come to that yet, but that is one of the things we are doing. (Applause.)

DELAY IN SELECTING THE 256,000 ACRES.

Now, I wish to call attention to another feature of the criticism of Mr. Greenway contained in his election address.

He says "that the Government has shown culpable negligence in not selecting the allotment of 256,000 acres of land from the Canadian Northern Railway Company in payment of \$256,000 worth of bonds given to the Hudson's Bay and Winnipeg Railway." What are the facts? In 1885 or 1886 the late Norquay Government through some failure in precaution transferred \$256,000 worth of bonds to the Hudson's Bay road before the land warrants were transferred and the Province was for the time being simply out that much money. In 1898 Mr. Greenway, in making a contract with the railway company—it was practically the same company that built the Dauphin line—stipulated that the company should give the Province 256,000 acres of their land grant. That was all right. We endorsed that. We supported Mr. Greenway. Under that arrangement, a contract was made on May 30, 1898, by Mr. Greenway of one part and the railway company of the other, by which the Government guaranteed the bonds of the railway company, and would you believe me, that Mr. Greenway actually handed over his guarantee before the company handed over the lands? That is what he did. Here is the document in my hand, and in face of that he tries to blame me and my Government for not getting the lands. A more monstrous mis-statement of facts never was made, and a more unfair statement it is impossible for any public man to make. He had control right in his own hands. The railway company could not get the guarantee until he got the lands handed over, but instead of that he gave them the guarantee and took from them an agreement that the lands were to be selected in alternate odd numbered sections, in the odd numbered townships and odd numbered ranges, commencing at the south-eastern odd numbered township of the land grant. The railway company is now independent. We cannot help ourselves. We have to commence at a given point and when we come to a township that is unsurveyed, if we took land, we should have to take it in large blocks including barren rock and sand hills unfit for settlement and as you see by this map, when we get up here (indicating on map) we would not be out of that belt of poor land before the whole of the 256,000 acres would be taken up.

CAUSE OF DELAY IN SELECTION.

If you want to know who is responsible for the delay in making the selection, I can tell you. It is Mr. Greenway's Liberal friends at Ottawa who are refusing to make the survey, for I charge upon the Liberal party at Ottawa the responsibility for not having that area of land surveyed so that we can make our selection, and if Mr. Greenway really wants to do something for the benefit of the Province, let him use his influence with his friend Clifford Sifton and get those survey parties out. Mr. Greenway failed to do his duty when he handed over the guarantee without getting the land for the Government. He ought to have got the land first, but he did not do it, and if he dares to deny the statements, I have the documents in my possession. (Applause.)

THE C. N. R. CONTRACT.

And, now, Mr. Chairman, I come to another question of our policy, and though the hour is so late, I am sure that you will be glad to listen to me for a few minutes. Mr. Greenway says the Roblin Government should be condemned for its railway policy. Now I will show you what he has done and what I have done in comparison. We had a clear, distinct and positive policy in connection with railways when we took office. We declared that the principle of government ownership was desirable, and should be adopted by the Government so far as the conditions made it possible. I claim, and I can claim with every honesty, that we have succeeded in establishing that policy, and for this reason: Government ownership of railways or of any other public utility, means that the utility shall be controlled by the Government in the interests of the people it serves; that the rates and charges shall be in the hands and under the control of the representatives of the people, and I am here to say to-night that we as a Government have secured absolute control over the rates of the Canadian Northern Railway for a mileage of 1,500 to 1,600 miles as it will be by this fall, and that to secure that positive control, it has not

cost the Province of Manitoba one dollar. (Cheers.) I know that there are men who have said that Mackenzie & Mann and the Canadian Northern Railway Company are getting rich out of the moneys we have given them in the Province of Manitoba, but I can tell these men that there has not been the millionth part of one cent gone out of the treasury of this Province into that railway company under our contract. (Cheers.) And I am here to say that we control the rates upon that road as absolutely and positively as if we had mortgaged the future of this Province for twenty millions of dollars and built every mile of it and operated it ourselves. (Cheers.)

REDUCTIONS IN RATES.

The Government has already to a very considerable extent been able to reduce the rates on freight coming into the Province, and I can tell you to-night that there is not one pound of freight nor one animal or farm implement brought into this Province now that is not carried cheaper than it was before by reason of our contract of Feb. 11, 1901. (Applause.) No control of rates can be more effective than that. And we have done more. By reducing the grain rates we have been able to add to the value of every hundred pounds of your grain two cents to the price you receive for it, and you yourselves know that you have had the benefit of this advantage, and you know what the value of it is. (Cheers.)

We have reduced the wheat rates two cents per hundred pounds, but before the crop that you are now putting in is ready for the market we will make a further reduction of the rate of two cents per hundred, making in all four cents per hundred, which we by our railway policy have added to the value of your produce, and is not that something for me to feel proud of? I challenge any person, Mr. Greenway or any of his followers, to search this wide world over, in Canada, Europe, Great Britain, Asia or Australia, and I tell them that they cannot find another government in the whole of the wide world that has the power that we have in this direction, where it has never cost us one dollar. (Cheers.)

NO REAL LIABILITY ASSUMED.

Yes, they say, but you have loaded us up with a contingent liability. Is there a possibility—I won't say a probability, for there is none—but is there a possibility that we will ever be called upon to pay one cent because of that contract? I say no; because we have taken a security on the basis of not more than \$13,000 per mile for that guarantee, and the road itself can be sold in the market to-day if it were offered, for \$25,000 a mile, and many purchasers would be glad to give a bonus in the bargain. There is no railway competition we can have that will give us better rates. Think of the C. P. R. lines that come in here, paying interest on an indebtedness of \$55,000 a mile and 5 per cent. interest, at that, while our Canadian Northern has cost us but \$13,000 a mile of contingent liability, less than a quarter of what the C. P. R. is bonded for, and interest is at the rate of only 4 per cent.; so that you can see what our chances are for reducing freight rates. You remember that Mr. Greenway said in that famous Pipestone speech of his, that he would give a million of dollars for a 10-cent rate. Well, just as sure as the present Government is sustained—and I believe it will be sustained as surely as the sun will rise tomorrow—you will have a 10-cent rate on the Canadian Northern before Aug. 1, 1903, from the eastern points of the Province, and an 11-cent rate from other points. (Great applause.) And it has not cost the Province a million dollars either, nor a single cent. (Renewed applause.)

GREENWAY'S RAILWAY POLICY.

Mr. Greenway says that the transportation question is a most serious problem, and he wants another opportunity of solving it. (Laughter.) Well, he did have a try at it, and let us see what he did. Mr. Greenway is long on promises with regard to railway relief, but short on fulfilment, mighty short. (Laughter.) He promised us, speaking from his place in the Legislature in August, 1888, when referring to the Manitoba & Duluth Railway contract that he would get a rate similar to that which obtained in the States of Minne-

sota and Dakota, and he said he had an agreement with the Northern Pacific, which would establish a lower rate, but that he was not at liberty to disclose it. A few days after that the Call newspaper published a letter from T. F. Oakes of New York, a copy of which I hold in my hand, and which reads as follows:

New York, July 27, 1888.

(Confidential.)

Hon. Thomas Greenway,
Premier of Manitoba,
Winnipeg.

Sir,—The rates made by our company shall not be higher to and from Portage la Prairie, Winnipeg and intermediate points, from and to Duluth and other eastern points, than the rates made by the Canadian Pacific Company between Emerson, Morris and other points near the international boundary line, and Port Arthur and other eastern points. Local and through rates shall be fair and reasonable. This will make the rates of wheat from Portage la Prairie, Winnipeg and intermediate points to Duluth 21 cents per hundred pounds. The division of the rates thus made between the several lines, shall be on the basis of a pro rata per mile actual distance. An agreement to this effect in detail shall be drawn up by Commissioner Martin and our counsel, Mr. McNaught, for execution by the Province of Manitoba and the Northern Pacific and Duluth and Manitoba Company. The latter companies will authorize its execution at a meeting to be held on the third Thursday in August.

Yours very respectfully,

T. F. OAKES.

In other words, when Mr. Greenway adopted that agreement and introduced that legislation, he took six or seven hundred thousand dollars of the people's money for the purpose of securing the competition of a railway which agreed

not to charge ANY MORE THAN THE C. P. R. DID. That is what the agreement was, for 21 cents per hundred, the same as the C. P. R. was charging, and this was to be competition! And further, on Sept. 19, 1888, an agreement was drawn and executed by Mr. Joseph Martin on behalf of the Greenway Government and the Duluth and Manitoba Railway Company, based upon that arrangement. That original agreement I hold in my hand and allow it now for the first time to see the light of day. It provides for the construction of the roads and that the rates made by the railway company "shall not be higher to and from Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Winnipeg and intermediate points from and to Duluth and other eastern points, than rates made by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company between Emerson, Morris and other points near the international boundary and Port Arthur, and that the rates from Portage la Prairie and other intermediate points to Duluth shall not be higher than 21 cents per one hundred pounds, and from Brandon and intermediate points to Duluth, not higher than 22 cents per hundred."

A CONTRAST IN RAILWAY POLICIES.

That is the kind of railway policy that Mr. Greenway saddled upon this Province, while in contrast, I had not been in office twelve months before, under the operation of the contract I entered into, we had saved to you over \$375,000 in reduced rates. (Cheers.) I took control of the rates. I didn't ask them that they should not charge more than the C. P. R. And yet Mr. Greenway tells you that we have not done our duty; that the transportation question is not settled. Tell me what more there is to do. Can the people of Carman tell me? Tell me what more you want in your interests and for your benefit. It is true that the C. P. R. has not made its rates to all points to meet the Canadian Northern rates. They have arranged in some way that on some classes of goods the rates are much the same, but I can tell you, when I make the next reduction they will come down or they will not get the business. (Applause.)

FOR WHOLE PROVINCE.

Let me tell you, too, that I am not Premier and Railway Commissioner for the Town of Carman alone, nor for the Town of Portage la Prairie, but for the whole Province, and it is my duty to see that competing lines are constructed in different sections of the country as fast as they can be, and we are providing for each section as fast as we can, but it cannot all be done in a year, or yet in two years. While Mr. Greenway was in power from 1888 to 1900 he secured the building of 545 miles of railway, whereas we in only three years have accomplished a good deal more. To build that 545 miles of railway Mr. Greenway gave public money to the extent of \$971,557.87, and never got a reduction of one cent in the rates, while we have built 722 miles since we went into office, and we have got absolute control. (Applause.) The only money we have had to pay for this was \$75,000 to the C. P. R. to extend certain lines of railway at points of the Province which could not then be touched by the Canadian Northern.

SOME GREENWAY BONUSES.

And in this connection, let me tell you that during the life of the Greenway Government, Mr. Greenway and his followers were shouting up and down this Province that they were getting lines built by the Canadian Pacific Railway without costing the Province a cent, and yet when we came into office what did we find? That in spite of Mr. Greenway's declarations they had passed that famous secret Order-in-Council agreeing to give the C. P. R. a bonus in cash amounting to \$148,000. When we came into power, let me tell you the stand we took. We said that because the C. P. R. had stood silently by and allowed that mis-statement to be made and the people of this Province to believe it, they should not now be allowed to take the benefit of it, and we refused to carry out the secret bargain and we saved to you that amount of your money. (Applause.)

WANT TO DO IT AGAIN.

And is Mr. Greenway saying he is sorry for having deceived the public in that way? Not a bit. You don't hear one single expression of sorrow, you cannot find one line in any one of their newspapers saying that if they get the chance they will not do the same thing again, and you couldn't get such an expression from one of them with a yoke of oxen and a logging chain? (Laughter.) Mr. Fraser says and Mr. Norris and Mr. Greenway applauded, that the Greenway Government was to be judged by its past record, and the rank and file swallow it down, and it is your privilege to judge them in this way. Now I have spoken at some length on these important matters, but they are in your interests and it is important that you should have a correct understanding of them. I always want you to know that the Roblin Government takes the electors fully into its confidence in respect to its policy. (Applause.)

NO SECRET DEALS NOW.

You will remember that when I made our railway contract on Feb. 11, no sooner was it signed than I took the train and came here as fast as I could and gave the public full knowledge and intimation as to what was done. (Cheers.) I had not been back in the Province eight hours before I took the electors into my confidence and you were in a position to know and discuss fully what had been done. We do not say that we did in that any more than our duty but we hold that up as a standard of what a proper government ought to do. And we now ask for a continuance of your confidence in order that we may carry out our policy further and more fully develop it. We realize that the farmers of this Province have not in the past had the full measure of prosperity to which they were entitled, for the value of their products has been handicapped by the heavy freight charges against them. We have undertaken to reduce those charges and we have done so and we intend to still further reduce them, and I am willing to leave this question in your hands for your verdict, fully confident that you will again support us in carrying out our policy. (Cheers.)

THE VOTERS' LISTS.

Another matter I want to speak to you about, though the hour is getting late, is our new Election Act. Mr. Greenway calls this un-British because it does not give the government of the day, the party in power, a chance to commit dishonest acts against their opponents, because it removes from the dominant party the right to appoint partisan registration clerks to stuff the lists and leave off names at will, and because it places in the hands of the Judges of this Province the right to appoint independent men to do the work honestly and correctly. (Cheers.) Let me tell you that when that measure was going through the Legislature, from my place in the House, I invited Mr. Greenway or any other member of the Opposition to make any suggestion he could to make the law more fair to the Opposition, and I told him that if he could make any such suggestion, the Government would adopt it. But he did not and could not make any suggestion, because our bill places in the hands of the County Court Judges of the Province the whole matter of the compilation of the lists, and even after the lists have been made up by the independent registration clerks, if any man's name has been left off, all he has to do is to go before the Court of Revision, and without any notice or formality of any kind, tell the Judge that he is qualified, and the Judge will put him on. (Cheers.) There will be under our Act no such scandalous frauds in connection with the lists as were perpetrated in South Brandon, Cypress and Dauphin, where over 400 names of railway navvies and wood cutters were put on from the pay rolls without any regard whatever to whether they had a right to vote or not, and the registration clerk hid away all day in a hay stack to prevent Conservatives from seeing the list and applying to strike them off. (Laughter.) Let me tell you that after we came into power, we ordered a revision of that Dauphin list and, notwithstanding the undoubted fact that since the Greenway revision, between 1,500 and 2,000 people had come into that district, the new list as properly and honestly compiled, contained some 360 names less than the Greenway list. That is the kind of a law that he says is un-British. He says it is British to do a dishonest thing, to stuff the voters' lists

and practice fraud upon his opponents. I am proud of our new election law. It shows one thing most prominently and clearly, that we are not afraid of the honest expression of opinion of the people. (Applause.) We are not afraid of the verdict of the electors upon an honest list. (Renewed applause.) We do not have to resort to a crooked list in order to get a majority of the people of this fair Province to support us, and if there are not enough honest men in this Province to secure us a majority, let me tell you that we don't want to continue to hold office; we don't want to sit on the Government benches supported by men that were dishonestly elected and could not have been elected otherwise. (Cheers.) Do you want to restore Mr. Greenway to power and have him go back to those old days of dishonesty and corruption? for have they not said that they want to be judged upon their record, so that they can go back and do those same things over again.

CHEAP CAMPAIGN PRINTING.

Now, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, let me come back again to that interesting matter of printing, about which I should think our friends the Liberals would be ashamed to say a word, in view of what I am about to tell you in respect to some of their printing which does not redound to their credit.

We have in this Province, as most of you are aware, a public institution known as the Deaf and Dumb Institute, where unfortunately afflicted children who can neither hear nor speak are cared for and educated by the Government. In that institution they teach the students amongst other trades, the art of printing, and what do you think my friend Mr. Thomas Greenway did during his term of office? Would you believe it, that the Liberal Government actually made use of that public institution, compelled the students there, the inmates of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, to print and publish thousands upon thousands of campaign sheets and copies of campaign literature? That is true, nevertheless. We found that out by accident, and it was proved conclusively before the public accounts committee, that these campaign, electioneering documents were prepared and printed

in a Government charitable institution, having been prepared and edited by John W. Sifton, chief clerk in the Public Works Department, and David Phillips, of the Provincial Secretary's Department.

SOME SPECIMENS.

I will not detain you by reading the whole of them, but here are a few which I hold in my hand. Here, for instance, is a book of instructions to scrutineers and agents, marked on its face in great big letters, "Watch every ballot very closely." (Laughter.) Here is a notice signed by W. E. Perdue, chairman pro tem of the Liberal committee for Winnipeg South, calling a meeting of the faithful for Nov. 18 at their committee rooms, and another somewhat similar circular signed by D. H. McMillan, then Provincial Treasurer in the Greenway Government. (Laughter.) There were hundreds of these printed and circulated, and not content with that, they had some campaign songs prepared so that they could come to places like Carman, for instance, and inspire their followers with enthusiasm. (Laughter.)

WILL THEY DO IT?

Now, ladies and gentlemen, I will tell you what I will do. If the Free Press will publish these beautiful campaign songs on their front page and state, which is the fact, that they were printed for the Liberal party at the Deaf and Dumb Institute at the public expense, I will give the Dufferin Agricultural Society a cheque for \$100. (Great laughter and cheers.) I want every reader of the Free Press to know where and how the Liberals obtained their campaign material. (Laughter.) The Free Press won't dare to do it, though, but let me plead with the good, stalwart Liberals of Carman, if there are any within sound of my voice, to use what influence they have with their chief organ to get these songs published in the way I have stated, and earn the hundred dollars for the Society. (Renewed laughter.) Let me read you some of these campaign songs, which would stir the cockles of any Liberal's heart. (Laughter.) Take this one, "The March of the Liberals." Why, it would make a bronze statue shed tears. (Laughter.)

LIBERAL MARCH.

Men and Liberals! ye whose action,
 Put to rout the Tory faction,
 In their ranks spread wild distraction
 Vanquished all their bands!
 Follow still the chiefs who led ye,
 Keep your ranks still firm and steady,
 Keep your words still sharp and ready
 Ready to your hands!

Chorus—

Shoulder press to shoulder,
 Onward march and bolder;
 Triumphs more we yet shall see
 Before we are much older.
 Railways, Trade and Education
 Be our aspiration,
 Till we win them for the nation,
 And our land be free!
 Honest principles inspire us;
 Calls of noble leaders fire us;
 In the struggle naught shall tire us
 Till the work is done.
 Every man in combat straining,
 Foot by foot the vantage gaining,
 Till the people's cause is reigning
 And the victory won.

(Chorus.)

Greenway's government shall rule us.
 Men like these will lead, not school us.
 Tory tricks no more shall fool us,
 We've a better way!
 Equal rights all shall be sharing,
 Equal burdens all be bearing,
 Each for all, for all each caring,
 Speed the happy day!

(Chorus.)

GRAND OLD CHIEFTAIN.

Here is another beautiful specimen which was to be sung to that glorious old American tune, "Tramp, tramp, tramp, the boys are marching." (Laughter.)

With a loud and ringing cheer,
Which will echo far and near,
Let us hail the noble chieftain of our land,
For he lives to see the day
When the clouds have passed away,
And prosperity shines over all the land.

Give three ringing cheers for Greenway,
Grand old chieftain of our band!
For he lives to see the day
When the clouds have passed away,
And contented men are working on the land.

With a brave and honest heart,
He hath borne a noble part,
And the people's truest friend hath ever been;
Always foremost in the fight,
For the cause of truth and right,
Ever faithful to his country and his Queen.
Give three ringing cheers for Greenway, etc.

Many tears have farmers shed:
Now each lifts his drooping head,
For he knows that true and faithful friends are near;
And in hope and patience waits
For the opening of the gates
When the day of tariff freedom shall appear.
Give three ringing cheers for Greenway, etc.

O how bright that day will be
When it dawns upon the free!
How the shout of joy will ring from shore to shore!
When the freedom that we claim
Shall be worthy of the name,
Our Dominion shall be one for evermore.
Give three ringing cheers for Greenway, etc.

NEGRO DIALECT.

And then not content with the "well of English unde-
filed," they must get down to a negro dialect song to that
highly popular music, "There'll be a Hot Time in the Old
Town To-Night."

CAMPAIGN SONG.

Come along, get you ready, don't be long comin' down,
 For dere's gwine to be a meetin' in dis good, good, old town,
 Where de 'lectors know de speakers, and de speakers all
 know you,

And you've got to vote right or you'll be de hoodoo.

When you hear Tom Greenway make his speech,
 The Grits all say, "Oh, ain't he just a peach!"
 And he makes de Tories want to yell and screech,
 There'll be a hot time in the old town to-night.

You Lib'ral's.

Chorus—

When you hear de elections am at hand,
 Grits quit work all over all de land,
 And the chorus of the Liberals will sound grand,
 There'll be a hot time in the old town to-night.

De platform of de Tories has just got three little planks,
 And they'll need to have the boodle transhipped to them in
 tanks,

For de 'lectors will not give their usual barrel and thanks
 When they try to buy us people who they say am only cranks.

When you hear de Lib'ral's work for you,
 Say to them, we are sticking by you true;
 And when Tory shouters brag what dey can do,
 There'll be a hot time in the old town to-night.

You Lib'ral's.

(Chorus.)

Some connection with the British is their heavy battle cry,
 But they always talked of that when they winked the other
 eye,

Now they know that Wilfy Laurier give de British Prefer-
 ence Pie,

And the trade with Johnny Bull is mounting pretty high.

Such "loyal" talk would give us all a pain,
 And when they get a chance of power again,
 They'll find this people talking pretty plain, and
 There'll be a hot time in the old town that night.

You Lib'ral's.

DISCREDITABLE PROCEEDING.

Now seriously, are not those nice things to have printed at a public institution of this Province at the public expense? Don't the respectable Liberals feel proud of their party when it lowers itself to such tactics as that and takes advantage of these unfortunate mutes who are public charges, to make them spend their time working upon such campaign material as that?

I do not think now, that I can add anything more that will demonstrate to you the record of the Liberal Government in contrast with our own and be reasonable with regard to the time I occupy. I have already spoken over two hours and a half and while there is very much more I could say, I will have ample time to say it all before this election is over (cheers) but I wanted to deal to-night with the matters that have been dealt with by previous speakers who have been here and by the Liberals in their platform and addresses to the electors.

APPEAL TO PATRIOTISM.

I appeal to your intelligence; I appeal to your honesty as common citizens of this fair Province of ours; I appeal to your patriotism because I am sure that the intelligent Liberals of Dufferin are as anxious as the honest Conservatives are that we should have clean and progressive government, and I ask you, after you have taken time to consider what I have said, to get the public records and examine for yourselves; I appeal to you to say after you have verified every statement I have made, whether you then desire to restore to office the men who have done the things that I have shown you here to-night that the Greenway Government did, who have left undone those things which I have pointed out, or whether you desire to have the present Government continue in office, the Government which I say has placed the financial affairs of the Province in the most satisfactory condition of any Province in this wide Dominion, which has changed an annual deficit to a substantial surplus, which has been able to place to the credit of the Province \$318,000 during its three years' term of office; a government that has been able to augment the revenues by over two hundred thousand dollars by taxation of the great corporations; that has been able to increase the educational grants by over

one hundred and fifty thousand dollars; that has taken up the great transportation problem and solved it by assuming absolute control of freight rates; that has added two cents per hundred to the value of your farm products by lowering the carrying charges; that will still further add to their values by a further reduction of two cents before the crop is moved; that has been economical in its administration of public affairs, restoring the equilibrium between revenue and expenditure; that has recognized its duty to the great farming community by providing for an Agricultural College where practical and scientific instruction may be obtained; that has given to the people an honest and inexpensive system of registration and compilation of their voters' lists; a Government that has, in short, been inspired in its every line of action by the single desire to serve the people whom they represent, well and faithfully—I say, if you want to continue a Government with a record like that, you are bound to support our candidates in the coming election. (Tremendous applause and continued cheering.) If, on the other hand, you want back the days of the old regime, vote for the Opposition. I appeal to you as loyal citizens to take this matter into your earnest consideration, seriously ponder whether you can afford to take any chances or not, and whatever verdict you come to, if it is an honest and a sincere verdict, no man will accept it and stand by it more loyally than will I. (Renewed cheering.) Knowing you for twenty-three years so well that I am able to call most of you by your Christian names, knowing the sterling honesty that actuates every citizen of Dufferin, I have abundant faith, and my faith is well founded, that when election day comes, you will go to the polls and cast your ballots honestly and intelligently in support of the Government that has given you that wise administration which I have indicated. (Prolonged cheers.)

The Hon. D. H. McFadden closed the meeting by briefly warning the electors that owing to the Premier's many public duties, he would be unable to spend that amount of time necessary for a personal canvass, and that on this account it would be necessary for the loyal members of the party to work all the harder to ensure his election.

The meeting dispersed after three ringing cheers for the King, the Government and Premier Roblin.